AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

In the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0025] with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Turning to FIG. 7, a schematic top-view illustration of an external cavity laser device 400, e.g. a fixed wavelength transponder, including a SiON Bragg grating according to exemplary embodiments of the invention is shown. The device of FIG. 7 illustrates one exemplary embodiment of an optical arrangement including a Bragg grating according to embodiments of the invention; other optical arrangements are also within the scope of the present invention. The device may be composed of at least two main blocks, a laser source, for example, a red indium phosphate gain chip 410, and a SOI block 420. An anti-reflective coated interface between the gain chip 410 and block 420 enables an optical signal from gain chip 410 to enter a rib SOI waveguide 428 disposed on block 420. Along waveguide 428 there may be a SiON Bragg grating 422, e.g., according to the exemplary embodiment shown in FIG. 2 that may be fabricated, e.g., according to the exemplary method described in FIGS. 3-6. Bragg grating 422 may act as a mirror to the laser source 410. The region between laser source 410 and Bragg grating 422 may operate as an external laser cavity. Downstream from Bragg grating 422 there may be a SOI current injection modulator 424 and, further downstream, a Germanium doped silicon block, 426, which may function as a power monitor. An optical signal generated by gain chip 410 and modulated along waveguide 428 may then pass into an optical fiber 430 for transmission.--